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AUTHOR Pipho, Chris
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ABSTRACT

This chart summarizes the following categories of information about various states' minimum competency testing activities: (1) name of state; (2) legislation or ruling which requires testing; (3) name of organization which sets standards; (4) grade levels assessed; (5) skill areas assessed; (6) use of standards and of test results; and (7) other comments. Information is presented concerning 38 states of the United States: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. (GDC)

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STATE ACTIVITY
MINIMAL COMPETENCY TESTING

ED187715

Prepared by:
Chris Pipho, Associate Director
Department of Research and Information
Education Commission of the States
Denver, Colorado

July 1, 1979

STATE	ACTION TAKEN	SETTING OF STANDARDS	GRADE LEVELS ASSESSED	SKILL AREAS ASSESSED	USE OF STANDARDS AND TEST	COMMENTS
Alabama	State Board Resolution 1977	State department of education	3, 6 & 9	Mathematics, reading and writing	For high school graduation June 9, 1981, and identification of students needing remedial assistance	The state superintendent has appointed a committee of 100 and a special test committee to make recommendations for a 3-year implementation program. Full implementation is to be achieved by June 1981.
Arizona	State board of education ruling in 1971 and 1976. Legislation 1972.	State standard for 8th & 12th grade set by state board. Local school districts to implement. No state test prescribed.	8th grade 12th grade	Reading, writing and computation	For graduation from 8th and 12th grades	Effective January 1, 1976, students must be able to read, write and compute at the 6th grade level to receive the standard 8th grade certificate and at the 9th grade level for high school graduation.
Arkansas	Act 666, 1979	State board to establish minimum performance goals.	Grades 3, 6 and 8	Reading and mathematics	Student diagnostic purposes. Test is not to be used for grade placement or promotion.	Pilot testing and analysis is to be conducted in 1979-80 and 1980-81. All students to be tested in the 1981-82 school year.

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California	(early exit test) SB 1112, 1972 SB 1243, 1975 SB 1502, 1976	Test and cut-off standards set by the California Department of Education.	Age 16 to adult	Process areas of reading and computation content areas: consumer economics and mathematics	Award high school diploma and leave school with parent permission	Title of program: California High School Proficiency Test Test administration and security handled under contract with private testing corporation.
	AB 3408, Ch. 856, 1976	State board to supply performance indicators and examples of minimum standards. Local districts set graduation standards.	Test once between 7-9 and twice between grades 10-11.	Reading, writing and computation	For high school graduation	This act also prescribes course of study requirements. In effect for the graduation class of 1980.
	AB 65, Ch. 894	Local districts	Once between grades 4-6; once between grades 7-9; twice between grades 10 & 11.	Reading comprehension, writing, computation skills	For remediation and grade promotion decisions	This law is to move California into elementary grade testing.

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Colorado	SB 180, 1975 C.R.S. 22-32-109.5	Local boards if they initiate a competency requirement for high school graduation	9 and 12 - test twice a year	Local district option	Local district option for high school graduation	If a local board of education imposes a proficiency test for high school graduation, it must follow the stipulations of this act. Law does not require districts to initiate any program.
Connecticut	State Board Resolution Nov. 1977 (Early exit program). Resolution not implemented. See comments.	State department using existing GED and APL test standards	16-year-olds	Academic: General Educational Development (GED) test. Life skills: Adult Performance Level (APL) test	With appropriate counseling and follow-up teaching, students can leave school with a high school equivalency diploma.	Final implementation was contingent upon $300,000 appropriation from legislature in 1978. This appropriation was not made. No action was taken on state board resolution.
	SHB 5859 P.A. 78-194 (5-28-78)	Local district (Plan for testing and remediation)	3rd, 5th and 7th	Basic skills: reading, language arts and mathematics	For instructional improvement and remedial assistance	Title of Act: Education, Evaluation and Remedial Assistance. Beginning with '79-'80 school year, state aid for remedial assistance will be available.
	"	State board	9th	Statewide proficiency examination in basic skills: reading, language arts & mathematics	For instructional improvement and remedial assistance	

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Delaware	State board of education resolution 1976	State department of education, after baseline test is given	Baseline instrument grade 11 1978	Level II Competencies, i.e., the application of reading, writing and mathematics	For high school graduation	The development of the baseline testing instrument has been awarded to a private test contractor.
Florida	CSSB 340, 1975 F.S. 229.814 CSSB 107, 1976 F.S. 76.226	State and local boards	Grades 3, 5, 8 and 11	Basic skill areas Functional literacy	For high school graduation, grade promotion and early exit from high school	Court decision - Debra P. v. Turlington, 7/13/79 - upheld use of the test but deferred implementation of the high school graduation requirement for four years.
Georgia	State board of education action 1976, 1977 & 1978	State board and state department	Grades 4, 8 and 11 - norm-referenced sampling. Grades 4, 8 and 10 - criterion-referenced testing	Grades 4 & 8: reading, math and career development. H.S. test to be developed in FY '80.	The state board of education has not taken final action on the use of the tests.	The student assessment program is part of a long-range plan to fund local school districts through a program of comprehensive planning. Activities related to General Assembly Act (1974) creating the Adequate Program For Education in Georgia Act.

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Idaho	State board of education resolution 1977	State board of education using a proficiency testing steering committee.	Grades 9-12	Reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling	For high school graduation at the option of local districts beginning with class of 1982	Students passing the proficiency program will receive a diploma with the state board seal. In districts not participating, students will receive district diploma.
Illinois	SB 238, 1978	Local districts with assistance from the state board of education	Local districts with assistance from the state board of education	Local districts with assistance from the state board of education	Local districts with assistance from the state board of education	This act provides for the state board to prepare procedures and materials to encourage and assist local school districts to develop minimal competency testing programs. Study is to begin by Dec. 15, 1978. The state board of education is to report back to the legislature on state progress by June 30, 1980.
Indiana	State board resolution adopted Feb. 1978 and amended in Oct. 1978	To be set by local districts with advisory committee of teachers, administrators, parents and community members.	3, 6, 8 and 10	Reading, composition and spelling	Primarily for remediation; local district may use for other purposes	Some handicapped and emotionally disturbed students are excluded. Non-English dominant students are excluded. Sensory and physically handicapped to have test administered appropriate to needs.

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Kansas	State board of Education adopted policy statement, January 1978	State department of education will set standards and goals with assistance of local districts	3, 6, 9 & 12	Academic skills: reading and mathematics, grades 3,6 & 9. Life skills: grade 12	Local district option	State board resolution was superceded by enacted HB 3115.
	Senate Substitute for HB 3115 (passed in April 1978)	State board of education	Grades 2, 4, 6, 8 and 11	Reading and mathematics	Not mentioned in law. Legislature to study pilot test results and make recommendations during 1980 interim or 1981 legislative session.	Law calls for a voluntary participation in '78-'79 school year, full district participation in '79-'80. At the close of the '79-'80 school year, results of the pilot effort are to be reported back to the governor and the legislature.
Kentucky	State board of education adopted 4-yr competency plan in 1977.	State department with task force assistance	Grades 3, 5, 8 and 11	Criterion-referenced test in reading, writing and arithmetic	High school graduation was included in the state board ruling but this use was removed in HB 579.	

(Kentucky continued next page)

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(Kentucky continued)	HB 579, 1978	Local districts are to develop educational improvement plans.	Grades 3, 5, 7 and 10	Reading, writing, spelling, language arts and mathematics	Law also provides that student test results are not to be used to evaluate teachers or administrators.	HB 579, the Education Improvement Act, also calls for the appointment of a statewide task force and for local districts to include student remediation in their plan. Beginning 1979.
Louisiana	HB 810, Act 709, 1976 Act 621, 1977	State superintendent of schools	Grades 4, 8 and 11	Basic communication and computational skill areas with criterion-referenced test	No student may be prevented from graduation or grade promotion.	Requirements a part of the accountability and assessment law.
Maine	Enacted amended LD 1810, Ch. 78 of the Private Special Laws	State department of education	Grade 11, all grade 8, sample	Reading, mathematics and writing	One-time test only	This one-time test was reported to the legislature. The Joint House and Senate Educa. Committee recommended the state board formulate a policy on competency-based educatio.a. No further legislative action taken.

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Maryland	HB 1433, M.A.C., Art. 77, Sec. 980, 1976 and HB 1462, Ch. 559, 1977	State board of education	Grades 3, 7, 9 and 11	Reading	For grade promotion and high school graduation	Students not meeting minimum requirements may be retained in same grade or enrolled in remedial program.
	State board resolution, 1977, 1978					State board resolution implements "Project Basic" including assessment in basic and life skills.
Massachusetts	State board of education	Local school districts; minimum standards for basic skill competency by September 1980.	Early elementary, later elementary, secondary	Mathematics and communication skills Listening and speaking skills are to be added.	"The purpose is NOT to establish a new condition for promotion or graduation."	Intent of the board policy is to "...improve basic skills competency in partnership with local school officials." Test: Elementary, local option. Secondary options: (1) state test (2) commercial test approved by state department of education (3) local test approved by state department of education

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Michigan	State board of education resolution in the late 1960's for assessment and 1974 for minimum performance	State department of education through advisory committees	Grades 4, 7. Grade 10 - voluntary Grade 12 - under study	Reading and mathematics	For local district use	Twelfth grade minimal competency test, covering life role skills under study. Legislative support for full scale testing at grade 10 is being sought.
Missouri	State board of education 1976 and 1978	State department of education	Grade 8	The application of reading, mathematics and government/ economic skills	No mandate for graduation or grade promotion	The Basic Education Skills Test, developed by the department of education, has been field tested in grades 8, 10 and 12. Full testing of all 8th grade students started in the spring of 1979.
Nebraska	State department of education, 1975	Local school districts	Begins in grade 5 and continues until mastery is achieved by each student in each skill area	Reading, writing and mathematics	State developed test is not to be used for grade retention or promotion.	Local school districts may use the Nebraska Assessment Battery of Essential Learning Skills (N-ABELS) or develop their own test.

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Nevada	AB 400-1977 State board resolution 1979 to implement law	State board of education	Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12	Reading, writing and mathematics	For high school graduation and remediation	Students may be promoted to the next grade if examination is failed but remedial work is to be provided.
New Hampshire	State department of education, 1977	State department of education	Grades 4, 8 & 12	Communications and mathematics	Grade promotion and high school graduation not mentioned. Some local districts are using for this purpose.	Program is to serve as guideline for local school districts.
New Jersey	A.1736, Ch. 97, 1976	Statewide committees		Reading and mathematics	Student diagnosis and remedial identification	Local distircts are to provide remedial assistance in order for students to meet state standards.
	State department of education	State department of education	3, 6, 9 and 11	Reading and mathematics; life skills under study	Identification of students needing instructional assistance	Development of testing instrument is under contract to a private test development company.
	Legislation enacted 8/79 awaiting Governor's signature SB 1154	State board of education	Grade 9 with reassessment in grades 10, 11 and 12	Reading, writing and arithmetic State funds will be available for remediation.	For high school graduation class of 1985	By 7/80, state board develops guidelines for test & standards. By 7/81, districts complete plans. 9th grade tests given in spring, 1982. Special education students to be covered by special guidelines prepared by state board.

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New Mexico	State board of education	State department of education	Elementary level: grade choice up to local district. Grade 10	Elementary: local option Secondary: proficiency battery based on adult performance level (APL) and a writing sample at local option	Proficiency endorsement on high school diploma if test is passed	
New York	State board of regents amended Sec. 103.2 of the commissioner's regulations, August 1978 Amendments to the Commissioner's Regulations approved by the Board of Regents	Board of regents with advice of professional educators and the general public	Reading: PEP* tests in grades 3 & 6. Preliminary competency test in grades 11 or 12 Writing: Preliminary competency test in grades 8 or 9. Final competency test in grades 11 or 12 Mathematics: PEP* tests in grades 3 and 6. Final competency test in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12.	Reading comprehension, writing and mathematics	PEP* tests and preliminary competency tests are used to identify students needing special help. Final competency tests are required for a high school diploma.	*PEP -- Pupil Evaluation Program -- an annual assessment in reading and mathematics required of all pupils in grades 3 and 6. Students may satisfy the competency testing requirement by passing Regents' examinations in English and mathematics.

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North Carolina	Enacted HB 204	By Competency Test Commission created by law	Grade 11 beginning in 1978-79	To be determined by the Competency Test Commission. See Comments	For hi[illegible]chool gradua[illegible]	The test is to measure "those skills and that knowledge thought necessary to enable an individual to function independently and successfully in assuming the responsibilities of citizenship."
	Enacted HB 205	By Competency Test Commission (separate from HB 204)	Grades 1 & 2: criterion-referenced test Grades 3, 6 & 9: "norm"-referenced test	To be determined by the Competency Test Comission	To be determined by the Competency Test Comission	
Oklahoma	State board of education	None	Grades 3, 6 & 9 Grade 12	Reading Survival skills	For comparative purposes by local districts and the state	The baseline test instrument was administered to 15,000 students in the fall of 1977 and 1978.

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Oregon	State board of education 1972 & 1976	Local districts	District option	Reading, writing and computation. Local option for personal development, social responsibility and career development.	For high school graduation	Graduation requirements are based on course credit, attendance and required competencies in personal, social and career areas.
Rhode Island	State department of education		Grades 4, 8 & 10	Comprehension analysis and evaluation known as the "life skills"	For local districts and state department use A competency-based high school diploma was studied and rejected.	The Rhode Island master plan for evaluation and the statewide assessment program have jointly contributed to the pilot testing in the life skills areas.
	Board of regents, 1978	Board of regents in conjunction with State Standards Council	Elementary, early and late secondary grades	Elementary: basic skills, i.e., reading, language arts, mathematics and cultural arts Secondary: minimum competency standards in selected life skills		This policy was adopted 5/11/78 to support the master plan for evaluation mentioned above. The policy also calls for the development of standards of excellence to be "measured by extensive assessment of advanced life skills, scholastic and cultural achievement for students aspiring to attain recognition by the regents for special distinction along a variety of dimensions."

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South Carolina	Enacted H 2053, August 1978	State board of education	1, 2, 3, 6 & 8: Basic skill areas Grade 11: Adult functional competency	Mathematics and communication skills of reading and writing	For remediation (see Comments)	Also establishes Basic Skills Advisory Commission, 15 members. Provides for grade 1 readiness test for students entering school. Grade 11 high school test will be used to gather baseline data until 1989. At that time, the state board is to make a decision regarding high school graduation and the test.
Tennessee	State board of education Nov. 10, 197	State department of education	Grades 11 & 12	Reading, mathematics, grammar and spelling	For high school graduation, class of 1982	Two different programs were established in the same state board resolution.
	State board of education Nov. 10, 197	Local districts	Grades 4, 5, 6 and 8	Subjects at discretion of local districts	Remediation	

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Texas	SB 350, 1979 Texas Educational Finance Act	Standards not mentioned. Law does imply some form of standard based on test scores for state and funded remediation programs.	1978-80: grades 5, 9 and high school for retake After 1980-81: 3rd grade	Reading, writing mathematics and language arts	For state-funded remedial programs	These provisions appear in a section of the finance law dealing with disadvantaged students.
Utah	State board of education Jan. 1977	Local district	Local district	Reading, writing, speaking, listening, arithmetic, democratic governance, consumerism, problem solving	For high school graduation, class of 1980	Local districts will develop or choose the test and set the cut-off standards.
Vermont	State board of education 1977	State board of education	Continuous	Reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics and reasoning	For high school graduation	Mastery of the basic competencies is to be one requirement for graduation unless student has a limiting handicap.

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Virginia	HB 402, 1978	State: reading and mathematics Local: essential citizenship skills Skills to qualify for further education or employment	Grades 9-12	State: reading and mathematics Local: essential citizenship skills Skills to qualify for further education or employment	For high school graduation beginning with class of 1981 and for planning for specific instructional needs	Testing in reading & mathematics of 9th and 10th grades in school year of 1978-79 for initial diagnosis for instructional needs. Subsequent years, reading and mathematics testing to begin in 9th grade. Local assessments of essential citizenship skills and skills to qualify for further education or employment can be by means other than tests.
	Initiated in HB 256, 1976 Repeated in HB 402, 1978, State Board, 1978	State board of education in cooperation with local districts	Grades K-6	Reading, communications and mathematics	To measure progress of individual students.	Field testing in spring of 1978. Testing for all students K-6 to begin in school year of 1978-79, extended through 6th grade in 1980-81.

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Washington	SB 3026 HB 1345, 1976	Local districts	4th and 8th	Standardized achievement test in reading, mathematics and language arts	For school district and parent use	School districts are encouraged to develop a separate test for second grade for the early identification of pupils needing assistance in language and computational skills.
Wyoming	State board of education policy 1977	Local districts will establish specific standards.	District option	Reading, writing and computing with proficiency. Process and structure of democratic governance and free enterprise.	For high school graduation	The start-up date and rules and regulations are to be drawn up by the state department of education. Local districts will verify the state standards and are encouraged to go beyond the minimum standards set by the state board of education.